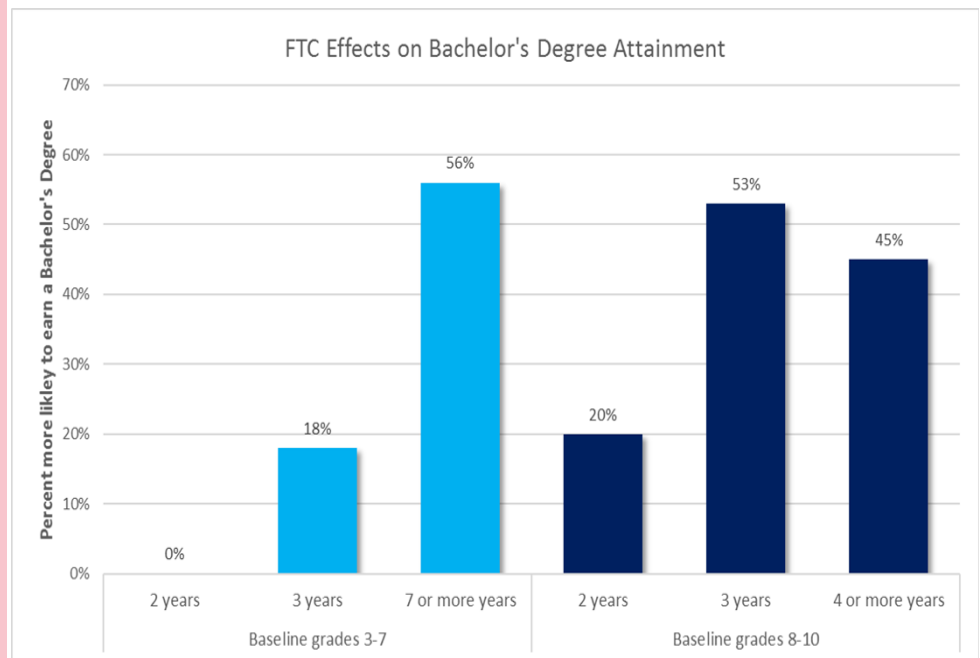# National study: Scholarship students up to 45 percent more likely to get college degree

The Urban Institute studied the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship program for low-income students, the nation's largest school choice program, and compared college enrollment, persistence, and attainment rates of FTC students to a matched sample of Florida public school students. The research was led by Matthew Chingos, the Institute's Director of Education Policy who has a PhD in government from Harvard University. The report followed up on a similar study released in September 2017. The team matched data between roughly 89,000 scholarship and public school students from 2003 to 2011, representing the largest study of its kind in the nation.

FTC Effects on Bachelor's Degree Attainment

MAJOR FINDINGS

- **FTC students were more likely to get bachelor's degrees**. Scholarship students were **11 to 20 percent more likely** than similarly disadvantaged students in public schools to earn a bachelor's degree. Those who were on the scholarship for at least four years were **45 percent more likely** to earn a degree.

- **FTC students had higher four-year college attendance rates**. Scholarship students were **16 to 43 percent more likely** than similarly disadvantaged students in public schools to attend a four-year college. Those who were on the scholarship for at least four years were **99 percent more likely** to attend college.

- **FTC students had higher overall college attendance rates**. Scholarship students were **12 to 19 percent more likely** than similarly disadvantaged students in public schools to attend either a two– or four-year college. Those who were on the scholarship for at least four years were **38 percent more likely**.

- T**he scholarship serves "triply disadvantaged" students.** In the 2017 report, researchers wrote that: "The available evidence indicates that FTC enrolls students who are triply disadvantaged. They have low family incomes, they are enrolled at low-performing public schools (as measured by test scores), and they have poorer initial test performance compared with their peers."